

THE REHEARSAL.

1. How our *Sadducees* can be *Christians*.
2. In Consequence they Deny a *God*.
3. It is Easier to Conceive the *Soul* to be *Im-Material* and *Im-Mortal*, than otherwise.
4. And the Difference betwixt *Man* and *Beast* better Accounted for.
5. The Pleasant Answer of *Man* wholly *Mortal* to *Eccles.* iii. 21.
6. His making *Breath* and *Spirit* the same.
7. His Answer to 1 *Pet.* iii. 19.
8. The Doctor Warily Drops this Text:
And now I have done with him.

SATURDAY, July 5. 1707.

(1.) *Country-man.* I Am satisfy'd, *Master*, from what has been said, That our *Sadducees* who Deny our *Resurrection*, do not believe the *Resurrection* of *Christ*. And therefore I know not how they can be call'd *Christians*. And you say it was to the *Christian Sadducees* that *St. Paul* wrote in the xv. of the 1st. of the *Corinths*. How can a *Sadducee* be call'd a *Christian*?

Rehearsal. They went under that *Denomination*, as *Ours* do. And believ'd some things of *Christ*. But their *Faith* was *Vain*, as the *Apostle* tells them, for want of this Great *Fundamental*.

(2.) *Country-m.* The *Sadducees* deny'd any *Spirit*. Then they must deny *God* too, for *God* is a *Spirit*.

Rehearsal. Have not I shew'd you before that *Dr. Coward* p. 195. do's not Allow *God* to be *Im-material*, but puts to it, as usually *Termed*? These Men have no *Notion* but of what they can See with their outward *Eyes*. Therefore their *Thoughts* cannot *Ascend* above *Matter*. They fancy *God* to be some *Thin* and *Fluid* sort of *Matter*, like the *Air*, or they don't know what! Therefore they take so much *Pains* to *Disprove* any *Im-material* substance in *Man*, and *Strain* their *Philosophy* to make meer *Matter* Capable of all the *Operations* of the *Mind* of *Man*, even to have *Conscience* and *Religion*. Which they think a *Lump* of *Earth* may be brought to, by *Calcing* the *Dust* finer and finer, and they cannot tell to what *Finess* it may be brought at last! They resolve this into the *Power* of *God*.

(3.) *Country-m.* But why will they deny Him the *Power* to make a *Spirit* that is *Im-material*? And then all the *Difficulty* is *Solv'd* at once. Cannot *Almighty Power* do this?

Rehearsal. They will not allow *Almighty Power* in This Case, but only in the *Other*.

Country-m. That is, they will *Stint* the *Almighty* where they think fit, and *Extend* his *Power* in Cases that like them better! I am sure it is Easier for me to think that an *Im-mortal* and *Im-material Spirit* is in *Man*, which *Ascends* up to *Heaven*, and *Contemplates* future *Glories*, than that *Earth* can do all this, which is so *Unactive* in its self, and wholly *Passive*.

(4.) *Rehearsal.* But when that *Earth* is *Lighted* with *Life* (as these Men say) then it will *Shine* and *Burn* like a *Candle*.

Country-m. And I observe that the *Flame* is always according to the *Candle*. Where the *Candle* is ill *Made*, or of bad *Stuff*, the *Flame* will be *Dim*, because the *Flame* comes from the *Candle*, not the *Candle* from the *Flame*. And if *Man* be nothing else but a *Piece* of *Earth* that is *Lighted*, I see not how the Difference betwixt *Man* and *Beast* can be so Great as it is. For as to the *Earth* of *Man*, and the *Earth* of *Beasts*, we see no Difference; nay the *Beasts* as to their *Bodies* have the Advantage of us every way, they are *Stronger* and more *Perfect* in every one of their outward *Senses*. Therefore since the *Flame* follows the *Candle*, why shou'd not the *Earth* of *Beasts* when *Lighted* *Shine* as *Clear* and *Bright*, at least, as the *Earth* of *Man*? If it be said that our *Earth* was *Lighted* at first by *God*, so was theirs. And the *Flame* is according to what the *Candle* is made of, not from, what it was *Lighted*. Therefore it seems Plain to me, That the *Spirit* of *Man* comes else where than from the *Body*, and is not only the *Life* or *Flame* of the *Body*. For otherwise it cou'd not go *Upwards*, and *Attain* to the *Knowledge* of *God*, and of a *Future State*, and have a *Conscience* of its *Actions*, more than the

the Spirit of a Beast that go's Downward, as Solomon says, of which we have Discours'd before.

(5.) *Rehears.* Shall I make you a little Merry, amidst our Serious Subject? I have Quoted other Books before Dr. Coward which set up the same Notion of the Soul being only the Life of the Body. But I go not through these, to Answer them all, (That wou'd Tyre our Auditory indeed) but I have kept Close to the Doctor, as the Latest, and who, it is to be Presum'd, has drawn out the Marrow and Quintessence of them all. But let me tell the Answer one of them gives to this Text, of The Spirit of Man that goeth Upward, &c. because, as I said, it will make you Smile. It is in the Book I nam'd before call'd, *Man wholly Mortal*. where p. 65. he says, it is to be Understood of the Breath of Man which Preacheth upward, and the Breath of a Beast that Breatheth downward. For (says he) Spirit signifieth Breath. And he Quotes that of Ovid to Prove it, *Os homini sublime dedit, Calumque videre*. That Man is made of a Countenance Erect, and to Look up to Heaven, whereas the Beasts look Downwards to the Earth.

Country-m. This wou'd Make one Laugh indeed! I suppose Ovid or he cou'd mean this only of the Swine, who they say cannot turn their Eyes upward, and look upon the Skie. For other Beasts can hold up their Heads, and See as far Upward as a Man can. And then what will he do with the Birds, who not only Look up, but Flie up, and far Higher than we can do? They say an Eagle will out-face the Sun. And some Flies have their Eyes on the Top of their Head. But is this all he says to this Text?

Rehears. Every word, only that it is a Wonderful thing! And so he Leaves it. But the Doctor has not Borrow'd this Argument. Tho' what he has brought is not much better.

(6.) *Country-m.* But when a Man Breathes, how long do you call it his Breath, after it is gon out of his Mouth?

Rehears. Not a Minute. It immediately Dissolves into Common Air. For Breath is only the Air we suck in, and Breath out again.

Country-m. Then by these Mens Account, every Mouthfull of New Air we take in, we get a New Soul. For they make the Soul nothing but the Breath. And as your Author wisely observes, Spirit signifies Breath! So that they needed not have been at all that Pains to Explain how we get a new Soul or Breath at the Resurrection, for we Suck in a new Soul (in their sense) every Minnute. And is it not Sad that the Parcel of Good Innocent Air I draw in now, shou'd be Punish'd for the Naughty Air I Breath'd 20 Years

ago? How do's this Burlesque the Scriptures, and Common Sense!

But when the Breath of the Wicked was Stopt by the Flood, where was that Breath kept, and in what Prison, to be Punish'd afterwards? For it is said i. Pet. iii. 19. That Christ went and Preach'd to the Spirits in Prison which sometime were Disobedient in the Days of Noah. Was it only to their Breath that he Preached?

(7.) *Rehears.* The Author of *Man wholly Mortal* says, p. 90. That those Spirits were Dead, or imprison'd in the Elements. And that All that Dye are Reserved in the Chains of Death, the Elements, not to be Delivered till Judgment.

Country-m. I suppose that was only the Last wicked Breath they Breath'd! For some time or other in their Life they have had Good Thoughts, and that was Good Breath! At least in their Infancy their Breath was Innocent!

But how is their Breath in Prison in the Elements, and when it is Dead too? For when my Breath go's into Air, I suppose it is as Free and out of Prison as any other Air. Or when my Body is Dissolved and turn'd into Earth, is not that Earth as Free as any other Earth, or as the Earth into which Beasts are turn'd? Else the Beasts have a Great Advantage of us, for their Earth or Breath is not kept in Prison! But pray what says Dr. Coward to this Text.

(8.) *Rehears.* He Slips it, but yet, as I said before of another Text, he did not Forget it, for he Mentions it upon another Occasion, in his Farther Thoughts, p. 87. And all the use he makes of it is p. 88. to Prove that the Godhead did not Dye, and that Christ did Suffer Death and was Buried.

Country-m. Well, Master, I have done with them. I shou'd be Tyr'd my self now to Pursue them any further, who can Endure such Stuff as this!

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